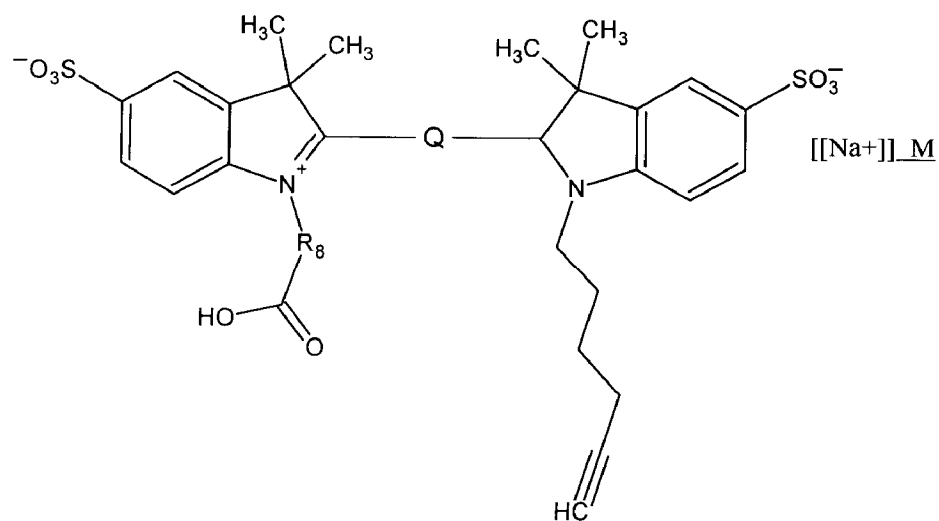


Amendments to the Claims

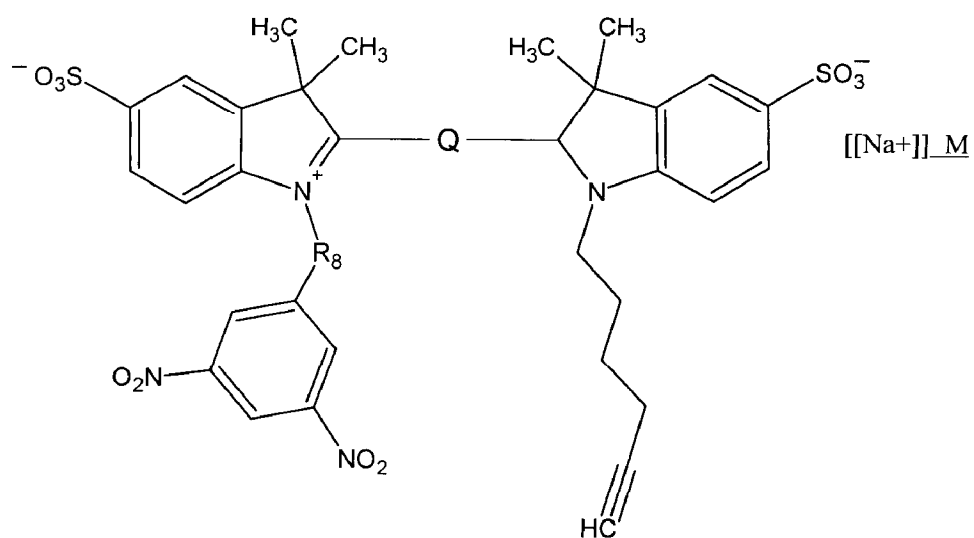
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

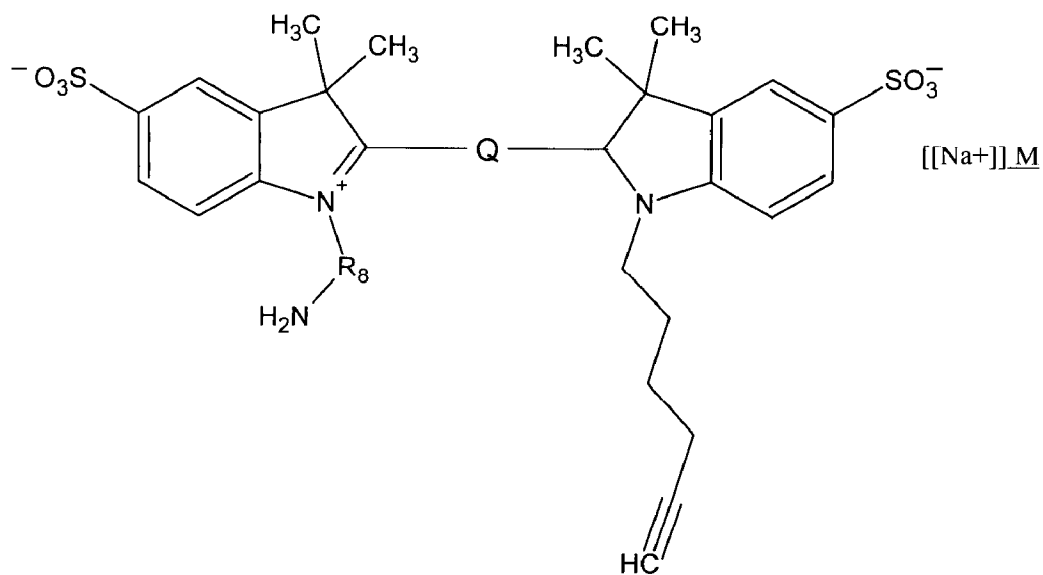
1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ cyanine modified with an alkynyl-linker arm, according to claim 2 selected from the group consisting of:



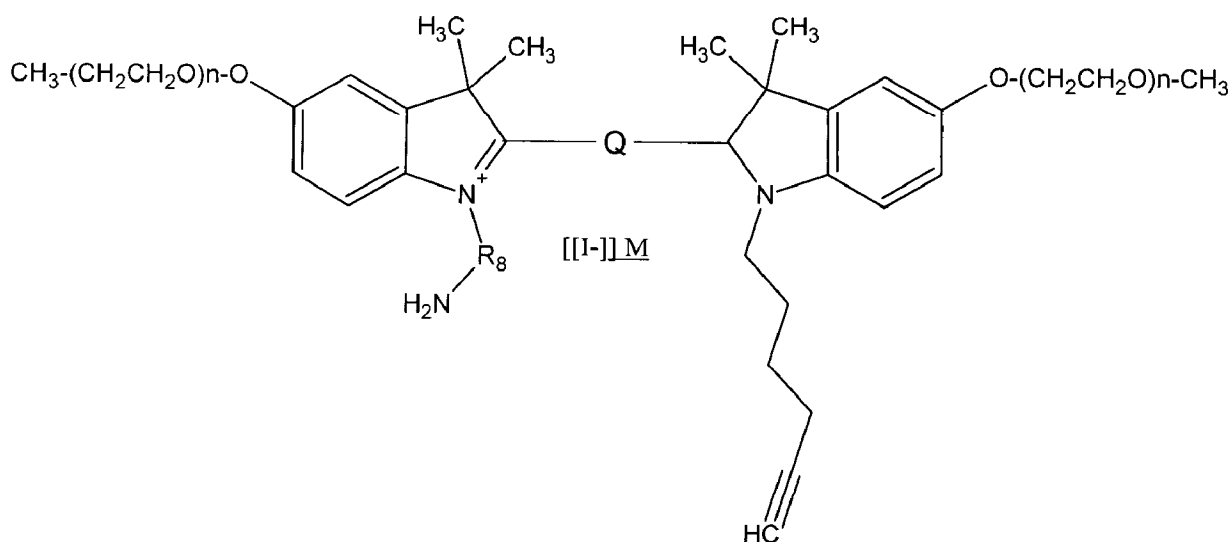
Formula (Ib-1) ~~(Hb)~~.



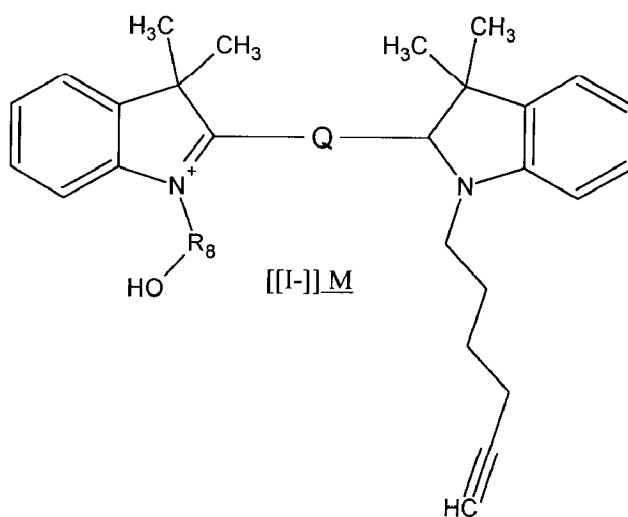
Formula (Id-1) (Id-),



Formula (Ie-1) (Ie-),

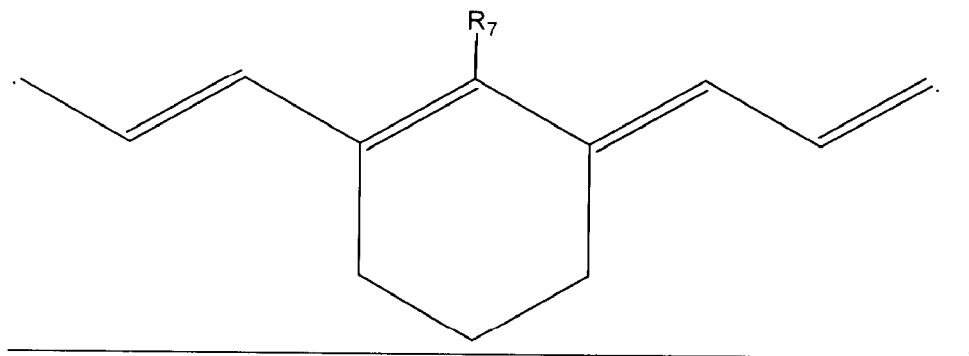
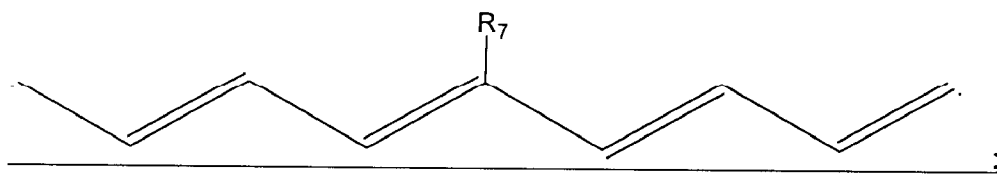
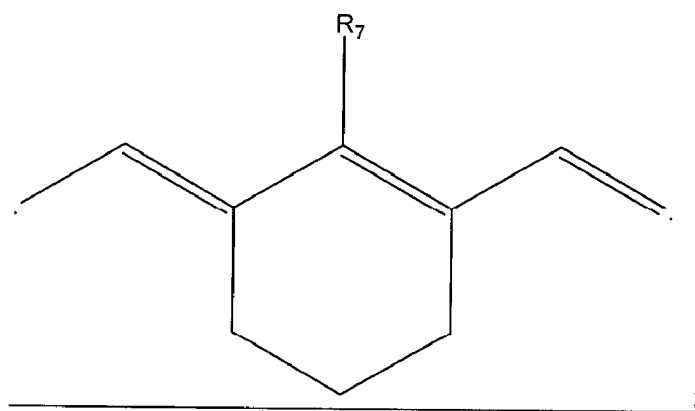
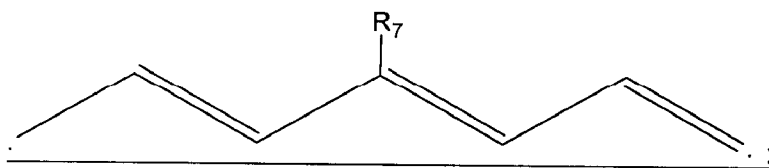
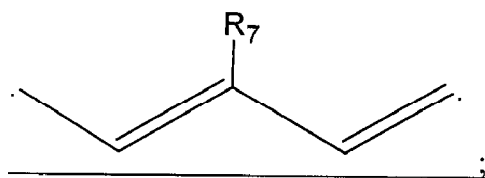


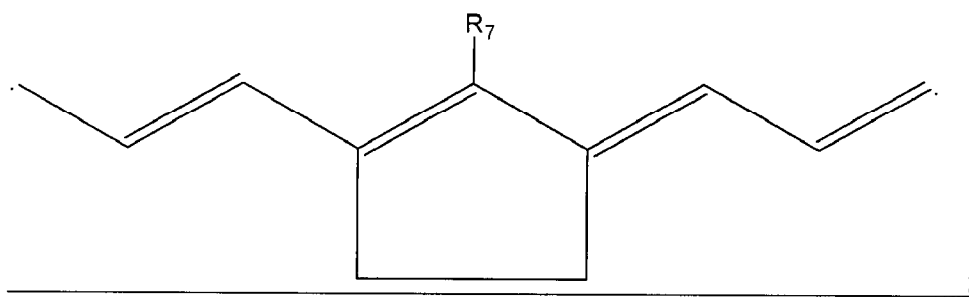
Formula (Im-1) (~~Im~~),



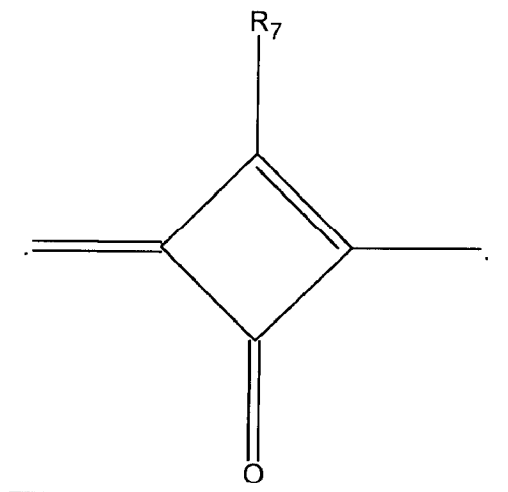
Formula (In-1) (~~In~~),

wherein M is a counterion; R₈ is a linear, saturated or unsaturated alkyl chain, having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein one or more carbon atoms are each optionally substituted by a component independently selected by an oxygen or a sulfur atom, a –NH– or a –CONH– group, or a cyclic 4-, 5- or 6- membered grouping of carbon atoms, aromatic or not aromatic, wherein one or more carbon atoms are each optionally substituted by a heteroatom independently selected from oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen or selenium; Q is a polymethinic chain selected from:





or



wherein R_7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, phenoxy, thiophenoxy, anilino, cyclohexylamino, piridine, $-R_8-Y$, $-O-R_8-Y$, $-S-R_8-Y$, $-NH-R_8-Y$, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, carbonyl, amino, sulphhydryl, thiocyanate, isotyocianate, isocyanate, maleimide, hydroxyl, iodoacetamido, hydrazine, aldehyde, nitrophenyl, dinitrophenyl, and trinitrophenyl, R_8 is as defined above, and aryl optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-SO_3H$, carboxyl ($-COOH$), amino ($-NH_2$), carbonyl ($-CHO$), thiocyanate ($-SCN$), isothiocyanate ($-CNS$), epoxy and $-COZ$; Q and R_8 are as defined in claim 1 and n is an integer between 1 and 100.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (rejoined and currently amended) The ~~conjugated~~ cyanine according to claim 9 [[15]], wherein said second fluorescent dye is N,N'-Difluoroboryl-1,9-dimethyl-5-(4-iodophenyl)-

dipyrrin.

9. (rejoined and currently amended) The ~~conjugated~~ cyanine according to claim 4 ~~[[15]]~~, further comprising a second fluorescent dye, conjugated through the linker arm -R₁-C≡CH, wherein said second fluorescent dye is a transition metal complex with at least one heterocyclic nitrogen-containing ligand.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (rejoined and currently amended) The cyanine according to claim 9 ~~[[1]]~~, ~~further comprising a second fluorescent dye conjugated through the linker arm -R₁-C≡CH, wherein said second fluorescent dye emits being capable of emitting~~ fluorescence at wavelengths at which the cyanine ~~absorbs is capable of absorbing~~, or said fluorescent dye ~~absorbs being capable of absorbing~~ at wavelengths at which the cyanine ~~emits is capable of emitting~~.

16. (canceled)